

Agriculture and Food

GIP

Grazing Improvement Program

What is GIP

Protect the Environment & Improve the Economy

How

- Rangeland Specialist to represent grazing interests
- Expand ability of grazing boards to impact federal management plans
- Increase no. of projects that protect the land and expand productivity
- Creating a process that is more reasonable, affordable and effective in addressing invasive species (NEPA).



(Grazing Improvement Program)

Key elements of GIP

- 1. Reorganization and authority of Utah Grazing Boards
 - Staff to support and research the needs of Utah livestock industry
 - Program Manager need new funding
 - Research Analyst internal reallocation
 - Rangeland Scientist existing employee



(Grazing Improvement Program)

Key elements of GIP

2. Projects to stop destruction by invasive species and provide a healthy and productive environment.

Projects will be generated by:

- Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs)
- Grazing Boards (regional and state)
- Soil Conservation District boards (SCDs)

Program coordination:

- Utah Soil Conservation Commission
- Utah Partners for Conservation & Development Council



(Grazing Improvement Program)

Key elements of GIP

- 3. NEPA (national environmental policy act) process revision
 - Open discussion about land management policy.
 - Reasonable, affordable and effective methods of addressing invasive species and rangeland/watershed capacity issues.
 - Federal agencies that are "can do" rather than "can't do."
 - Proper management is more than no action.



Budget Proposal

Funding Example

To Fully Fund:

\$2 mil for GIP

\$200,000 for staff and board costs

\$1.8 million for projects

FY 2007 Budget Request \$320,000 on-going to start program

Currently		
	Federal	State
T/G Boards	\$100k	0
CWMA/county	\$100k	0
UGN	\$ 50k	0

GIP – project matching grant money			
	Federal	State	
Regional Boards	\$100k	\$400k	
CWMA/county	\$100k	\$400k	
GIP board / USCC	\$ 50k	\$1mil.	



(Grazing Improvement Program)

Uintah Basin

South West

Central

South East

Northern

5 Regional Grazing Boards

(Formerly Taylor Grazing Act districts)

USCC

(Utah Soil Conservation Commission)

USU Extension Service

USDA-NRCS

USDA-FSA

Utah Dept. of Natural Resources

Soil Conservation Districts

and other partners

State Weed Committee

U.S. Forest Service

State Grazing Advisory Board
(formerly UGN)

Commissioner of Agriculture and Food 1 member from each Regional Board 2 at large appointed by UDAF

Representative of UACD

Representative of USU Extension and Research
Ex-Officio Members

PUBLIC LANDS POLICY COORDINATION OFFICE

Reviews Management Plans, Advises, Directs, Comments To:

State Lands & School Trust Lands

UDAF

Support

Staff

Grazing Advisory Board Executive Administrator (new)

Research Analyst (new)

Range Monitoring (existing)

Range Improvement Projects

BLM



(Grazing Improvement Program)

Program Benefits

Increased carrying capacity – livestock and wildlife

Improved water quality and quantity

Decreased fuel load to suppress wildland fires

Enhances the vitality of rural Utah economies.

"We believe in a stewardship obligation to our resources."

Leonard Blackham, Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food



EXAMPLE

Stocking rate changes as a result of Grazing Improvement Projects

Species	1983	2001
Mother Cows	2,600	5,500
Yearling Cattle	3,000	4,000
Elk	1,500	2,400
Mule Deer	4,500*	3,500
Antelope	0	600
Moose	50	200
Bird Species	?	260
Sage Grouse	120	600